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To Parents Of ACHS Students

One of the problems facing the schools in our nation is a high rate of absenteeism. One survey indicated that on an average each day eight to nine percent of the nation's school children are absent from school. In some urban areas the daily rate of absenteeism ranges from twelve to eighteen percent. It is estimated that of eight to nine percent average, about five percent of these absences are for legitimate reasons such as personal illness or medical or dental appointments.

Appomattox County High School shares in this attendance problem both from a daily attendance rate and from early dismissals. During the present school year the attendance rate was 93.60 percent in August and September and declined to 87.92 percent in January of 1978. In terms of numbers of students, we are speaking of 67 to 106 students absent per day respectively for the 93.60 percent and the 87.92 percent. In relation to early dismissals, the number of students leaving school each day has steadily increased to the point that on Friday, February 10, 1978, sixty students left school before the day was completed. This trend has moved from Fridays to include additional weekdays.

During the present school year, in an effort to improve attendance, we initiated a plan to inform parents as often as possible concerning attendance patterns. We plan to continue this communicaton. I have had a chance to visit several schools and meet with several principals from across the state in an effort to evaluate attendance procedures. In an effort to improve attendance and the early dismissal situation the faculty and administration of Appomattox County High School has embarked upon the following course of action:

Step Number One - Early Dismissal Procedures - Beginning Thursday morning, February 16, 1978, we will begin an excused - unexcused system which means that if the reason that the student gives for leaving is an excused one he or she will be provided the opportunity to make up any missed work. If the reason is unexcused, then the work may not be made up. This means that if a test, quiz, etc. is missed this student will not be permitted to make up that work. The following are reasons which will be considered acceptable and excused (as listed in the Student Handbook):

1. personal illness
2. serious illness or death in family or of a close friend
3. medical, dental, legal appointments
4. prearranged approved trips (approved by ACHS administration)

When a parent or guardian arrives at the high school to pick up their son or daughter it is very important that they come to the office to sign the necessary forms. This helps the high school know with whom the students are leaving. When students bring a note for early dismissal and the note indicates that they have a medical, dental or legal appointment, it will be marked temporarily unexcused. The student will need to bring some type of a validation note or slip signed by the doctor, dentist or lawyer before that temporary unexcused note can be changed to an excused status.

Step Number Two - It is most probable that the excused - unexcused system will be extended to daily absences and tardies to school as of March 1, 1978.

Step Number Three - Through the establishment of a working committee, consideration will be given to an incentive plan for attendance begining in the spring of 1978.

The excused - unexcused attendance plan which we are beginning is one that is used in most secondary schools throughout the state of Virginia, so this system is not unique to us.

I am sure that everyone understands our concern relating to the high rate of absenteeism. If students are absent from school they are missing valuable learning opportunities. This places a student at a distinct disadvantage in terms of missing important skill development, preparation for quizes, tests, projects, special assignments, etc. In order for students to receive maximum opportunities for learning they must attend school.

Quite often low or failing grades in a course or courses can be correlated to the fact that the student is habitually absent from school. I would consider the student to be habitually absent from school if he or she is absent on the average of one day per week (20 percent of the time).

I would ask each parent to assist us as we endeavor to provide each student with maximum opportunities for learning. You can help by seeing that your son or daughter does not miss school.

Donald L. Armentrout,
Principal
Appomattox C.H. School

TO: Parents of Seniors at Appomattox County High School

This is to inform you that on Tuesday, February 28, measurements for graduation caps and gowns will be made at the high school. A representative from the company indicated that the $7.50 fee will be collected at the time of measurement.

In addition, the initial payment of $35.00 for those students planning on attending the Senior Trip must be turned in to the school secretary no later than Friday, March 10. Mrs. Hix will begin collecting the initial payment on March 6.

School Board To Apply For Title VI-B Funds

In compliance with Public Law 94-142, the Appomattox County School Board is making announcement that an application for receiving Title VI-B funds has been received. The public is invited to make written comments about the application before it is submitted.

Upon completion of the application by the Advisory Committee for Special Services to Hanicapped Students and school personnel, it will be referred to the School Board for action at the March meeting. The submission of the application will allow the division to receive supplemental funds to provide services, not presently provided, to the handicapped.

Interested persons are asked to call the School Board Office for the purpose of receiving instructions related to providing information for the preparation of the application. The number is 352-8251.

The Pastor Speaks

A SPECIAL PLACE

Lesson for February 19, 1978

Background Scripture: Psalms 43, 46, 84, 122
Devotional Reading: Psalms 43

Just about one year ago I saw one of the most marvelous sunsets I have ever seen. Standing atop Mt. Nebo in what is today the nation of Jordan, I looked across a vast valley to another mountain ridge on the far side.

Rev. Althouse

On the valley floor to my left was the shimmering Dead Sea, to my right was the Jordan River, and in the middle was a dark green patch that was identified as Jericho.

But it was on the mountain ridge on the other side of the valley rift that our attention was focused, for a monstrous orange ball began to slip down the far side of the ridge. As it did, its rays illuminated the spires of churches on the Mount of Olives over-looking the Holy City of Jerusalem.

The lovely dwelling-place

In a space of five minutes the sun had completed its daily duty and Mt. Nebo plunged into darkness. Still our little group stood there staring into the darkness in the direction of the Judean hills that could no longer be seen. It was with reluctance that we finally walked back to our bus.

The next day it was with that vision of the Holy City in our minds that we began our journey from Jordan across the valley into Israel and started the climb up to Jerusalem. As we climbed ever higher, some of us remembered the anticipation of the ancient Hebrew pilgrims as they made their way up to the Holy City. Although the Temple is long gone and no longer carries contemporary significance for the Jew, let alone the Christian, still it was an easy matter to share and understand the tremendous excitement the Jewish pilgrims must have felt as they approached Jerusalem. As we rounded the curve on the road from Bethany to Jerusalem and saw the city spread out before us, we knew in our own hearts why this had always been for so many people a special place.

To dwell in thy house

But God is everywhere, the skeptic reminds us. We don't have to go to a sacred city or holy place to find him. We don't even have to enter a church.

No, we don't have to, we can find and experience God anywhere—and life is richer and fuller when we do—but nevertheless there are certain places where our experiences of him are deeper and fuller, not because he is limited to those places, but because they have a special meaning for us and we are more likely to be receptive there, more open to his indwelling Presence.

God is certainly not limited to our churches, shrines, and holy places, but because we come to them with anticipation, because we enter them as places of refuge and inspiration where "even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself," these places become "special" to us as with praise and singing we enter, not so much into a place, but into a Presence.

we need to begin now -- today --"conforming to His image," as the Apostle Paul wrote about in Romans 8:29. Many of us have already been born again as children of God. As that day and time approaches "when He shall appear, and we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is," let each of us this week seek to lead others to this blessed promise that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Clarence H. Davis, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church
Appomattox, VA 24522

JORDAN NEWS

There will be a Ladies Club meeting at the Jordan Baptist Church Saturday night at 7:30. All members please be present.

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RITTER FINANCE CONTRIBUTES TO APPOMATTOX COUNTY YOUTH ASSOCIATION

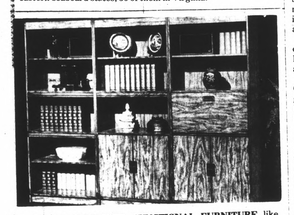
Ritter Consumer Finance Company, whose local office is located at Route 460, Triangle Plaza Shopping Center, has donated $500 to the Appomattox County Youth Association.

Mr. Louis R. Bryant, Manager of the Appomattox office, presented the check to June Chenault, Treas.

George Roach, Ritter Distriet Supervisor, stated that the check represented a part of Ritter's commitment to be actively involved in community affairs in towns where it has offices.

Ritter's Appomattox office, opened in 1973, is staffed by the manager, Louis R. Bryant, of Appomattox, and the Consumer Service Representative, Janet Lynn Blanks of Red House.

Ritter Consumer Finance Company is a subsidiary of Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, New York, one of the Nation's largest financial institutions. It has 125 offices in six eastern seaboard states, 36 of them in Virginia.



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BECKHAM

FEB. 13 - Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Yeatts, Gary Yeatts, Mrs. Cynthia Tyler, Mrs. Geraldine Moore, Gwen Moore, Karen Carter, Mrs. Alfred C. Martin, A.C. Michael and Edward. Mr. Alfred Martin visited in the afternoon.

Mr. Hamlett Drinkard spent Friday in this home.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Martin were Mrs. Gertrude Burge, Ricky Burge, Mrs. Judy Jamerson, Shannon Jamerson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tweedy, Michelle and Tracy, Kevin Harris, Sherri Harris and Jeff Moore. Crystal Carter and Fleming Harris visited in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Jr. and Tony were Sunday dinner and supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard, Donald Lee and Miss Eunice Martin. Others visiting in this home during the week end were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Moore, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David Martin, Mr. Bob Martin and Mr. Thomas Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moore visited Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Martin Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Moore spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. John Moore and Jerry. Michael Henderson spent several days of last week in this home.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morris, Melanie and Mrs. S. G. Martin during the week end were Miss Eunice Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Moore, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Howlett Drinkard and Mr. and Mrs. David Martin.

Mrs. Winston Martin visited Mr. H. O. Martin recently.

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ROCKS

FEB. 13 - Still cold and more snow predicted for Virginia.

Kermit Paulette fell on the ice and entered the hospital last week.

Mrs. A. M. Taylor returned home from the hospital last Monday.

Kermit Paulette returned home from the hospital much improved.

Rev. and Mrs. A. M. Taylor received word Wednesday that their grandson, Scottie of Davenport, Iowa, was quite sick. A speedy recovery is wished him.

Sorry to hear Ed Davidson, of Pamplin, is in St. Luke Hospital, of Richmond. A speedy recovery is wished him.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Roach, who celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The Sweetheart Banquet was held at Rocks on Saturday night. About 30 people were present for this.

In observance of Focus Week the younger groups had a very inspiring devotional during the opening of Sunday School Sunday. Certificates of Recognition for various achievements in each group was by the pastor at the Sunday night service.

Mr. and Mrs. Toby Inge called to see Mr. and Mrs. Benny Massey, of Pamplin awhile Friday night.

Mrs. Gladys Harvey and Mrs. Carrie Richardson were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Richardson and boys on Sunday.

Congratulations to Jane Almond and Sabrina Richardson, who were Acteen members and crowned as Queen Scepters at the beginning of W.M.U. Focus Week Sunday night. They were the first from Rocks Church to receive this high honor. The pastor, Rev. A. M. Taylor had the pleasure of presenting them with these awards.

Get well wishes go out to the pastor, Rev. Terry, of Evergreen, who is in the hospital.

Rev. W. H. Elder will occupy the pulpit at Rocks on Sunday, Feb. 19, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. A. M. Taylor, who will be in an Action Campaign.

W.M.U. Group I MIssion Study Class at Evergreen Church on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Spring revival at Rocks Church on March 26-29.

Evangelist Rev. Al Griffin of Lynchburg will be the speaker. Plan now for this.

Mrs. Walter Ranson was at Pamplin Monday afternoon and called to see Mrs. Carrie Richardson for awhile.

DMV OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY; FEB. 20 STATE OBSERVES WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

RICHMOND-All Division of Motor Vehicle offices and driver's testing stations will be closed Monday, February 20 in observance of Washington's Birthday. Many vehicle license agencies will be open that day, however, and DMV suggest you call first to be sure.

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